

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. The public interest is not served when a media company unfairly takes sides in partisan political contests. The so called, "documentary," in question is produced by a Republican special interest group already known to have targeted their Democratic opponent in early print ads that have been shown to be filled with lies and distortions.

I assert to you that the "documentary," is not an unbiased examination of an issue, as one would expect, but is an attack ad disguised as a documentary. To air this partisan ad in the guise of a documentary is dishonest and unjust, since many viewers may not realize its biased political intent.

When large companies are allowed to grow without regulation, monopolies develop, and money becomes the overriding interest, not the public good. This is bad for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.